

The Happenings

March 1992

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express Museum

HORSE BARNES OF THE PAST

by Russ Mooney, Adjunct Staff, Saddle and Tack Consultant

I have been around a lot of horses and horsemen during my life. I have visited many barns over the years with my father when I was younger and by myself as I grew older. My father would go to the barns and stables to see the riders as much as to see the horses for he was a full-time saddle maker while I was growing up. I, however, would look as much at the barns as I would at the horses. This gave me something to do while Dad was talking to his customers. As I grew older and was on my own, I visited many places while traveling and showing my horses, and yes, to see my customers, for I took over the family business.

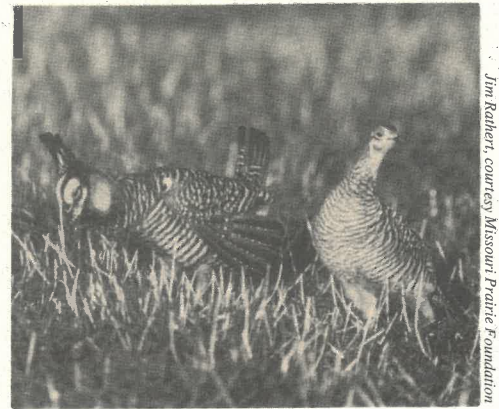
On a recent trip, I gained another perspective on the people that use horses and their barns. The trip began as something I felt I was doing as a duty, not as something that I wanted or needed to do. With the upcoming expansion of the Pony Express Museum, the building committee (of which I am a member) decided that we needed to see some barns that had been used for the purpose of stabling horses.

Continued on page 5



Photo courtesy of Gary Culver

This barn near King City was built in 1927 by E. L. Culver, at a cost of over \$4000.



Jim Robern, courtesy Missouri Prairie Foundation

PRAIRIE CHICKEN FIELD TRIP

The St. Joseph Museum and the Midland Empire Audubon Society are again co-sponsoring a prairie chicken field trip. A limited number of participants will travel to Dunn Ranch on Saturday, March 21 to view prairie chickens. Last year this trip filled up fast, so send your registration in early.

Dunn Ranch, a large tract of native prairie near Eagleville, Missouri, is home to a nesting population of greater prairie chickens. The focus of the field trip is to observe the prairie chickens' courtship ritual, called *booming*. Because we must be at the prairie chicken booming ground before dawn, it is necessary to leave the St. Joseph Museum at 2:00 a.m. We will ride to Dunn Ranch in vans, which will serve as our blind while we observe the booming. After leaving the ranch, we will stop at a restaurant for lunch, but participants may bring their own sack lunch.

There is a fee of \$5.00 for the trip. This does not include lunch. Send payment by March 14 to:

Prairie Chicken Field Trip
c/o St. Joseph Museum
1100 Charles Street
St. Joseph, MO 64501-2874.

The Happenings

March 1992

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express Museum

HORSE BARNES OF THE PAST

by Russ Mooney, Adjunct Staff, Saddle and Tack Consultant

I have been around a lot of horses and horsemen during my life. I have visited many barns over the years with my father when I was younger and by myself as I grew older. My father would go to the barns and stables to see the riders as much as to see the horses for he was a full-time saddle maker while I was growing up. I, however, would look as much at the barns as I would at the horses. This gave me something to do while Dad was talking to his customers. As I grew older and was on my own, I visited many places while traveling and showing my horses, and yes, to see my customers, for I took over the family business.

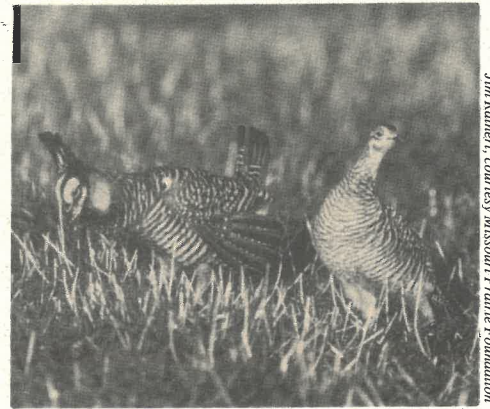
On a recent trip, I gained another perspective on the people that use horses and their barns. The trip began as something I felt I was doing as a duty, not as something that I wanted or needed to do. With the upcoming expansion of the Pony Express Museum, the building committee (of which I am a member) decided that we needed to see some barns that had been used for the purpose of stabling horses.

Continued on page 5



Photo courtesy of Gary Culver

This barn near King City was built in 1927 by E. L. Culver, at a cost of over \$4000.



Jim Rother, courtesy Missouri Prairie Foundation

PRAIRIE CHICKEN FIELD TRIP

The St. Joseph Museum and the Midland Empire Audubon Society are again co-sponsoring a prairie chicken field trip. A limited number of participants will travel to Dunn Ranch on Saturday, March 21 to view prairie chickens. Last year this trip filled up fast, so send your registration in early.

Dunn Ranch, a large tract of native prairie near Eagleville, Missouri, is home to a nesting population of greater prairie chickens. The focus of the field trip is to observe the prairie chickens' courtship ritual, called *booming*. Because we must be at the prairie chicken booming ground before dawn, it is necessary to leave the St. Joseph Museum at 2:00 a.m. We will ride to Dunn Ranch in vans, which will serve as our blind while we observe the booming. After leaving the ranch, we will stop at a restaurant for lunch, but participants may bring their own sack lunch.

There is a fee of \$5.00 for the trip. This does not include lunch. Send payment by March 14 to:

Prairie Chicken Field Trip
c/o St. Joseph Museum
1100 Charles Street
St. Joseph, MO 64501-2874.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 10 Oregon-California Trails Association meeting. The program, at 7:00 p.m. in the library at Troy, Kansas, will be a discussion of the geneological resources of Doniphan County, Kansas and Northwest Missouri. It will be led by librarian Cindy Blanton and Grace Jeske.

March 13-15 Audubon Society Spring River Conference. Kearney, Nebraska.

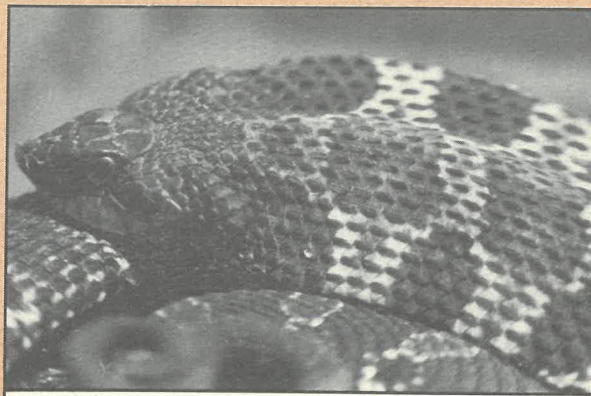
March 14 or 28 "Search for Woodcocks," Audubon field trip. Dr. Leo Galloway, 232-8035.

March 19 "Prairie Chickens," Audubon Society program by Sharron Gough, 7:00 p.m., Missouri Western State College, LRC 102.

March 21 "Prairie Chicken" field trip. Audubon Society and St. Joseph Museum. (See related story, front page).

March 30 St. Joseph Archaeological Society meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Bank of St. Joseph, Woodbine and Faraon Streets. For information regarding the meeting call Mike Fisher 232-5738.

For more information call 232-8471



David Mead

The harmless eastern hognose snake is all bluff. When disturbed, it flattens out its body and hisses, but will not bite. Eventually, it will roll over and play dead. This hognose is part of the St. Joseph Museum's live snake collection.

Museum Hours

St. Joseph Museum

**Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays 1-5 p.m.**

Pony Express Museum

**Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays 1-5 p.m.**

Printed on Recycled Paper

St. Joseph Museum

1100 Charles Street

St. Joseph, Missouri 64501-2874

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. JOSEPH, MO
PERMIT NO. 40

Pony Express Museum

914 Penn Street, P.O. Box 244

St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0244

Horse Barns of the Past, *continued from page 1*

Arrangements were made and on a Saturday afternoon, Jim Lehr, Rich Nolf, David Mead and I started on a journey that took us back in time seventy-five years.

The first stop was at the barn on the Armfield Farm in Union Star, Missouri, which my sister, Marilyn Armfield, currently owns. Knowing the nature of the trip, my sister had talked with her friends, the Culvers of King City, Missouri, and directed us to their farm.

Gary Culver took us on a tour of the barn that his grandfather had built almost seventy-five years ago. Its main purpose was to house the teams the farm used at the time. Gary said, "there were at least four full-time hired hands, as well as my grandfather, that were using teams on the farm at that time."

As we looked around the barn, some fine features were to be seen that many of the barns today do not have. One feature was water which

was automatically delivered from a stream. This was before electricity and power pumps! Others included a mouse-proof corn crib, chutes that would deliver the hay or grain to the horse stalls on either the ground or the second floor, hay storage, concrete footings and ground level entry for the second floor.

The things that we were looking for, the construction of the stalls and how the horses were fed, were still easily seen. Jim Lehr discovered a feature that we were not even looking for—the support posts. The posts and several joists were made from walnut lumber and were held together with wood pins. As Gary talked about the barn, we knew that it not only provided shelter to the livestock, but also many happy days for him as he grew up. It is truly a wonderful old barn with a rich history.

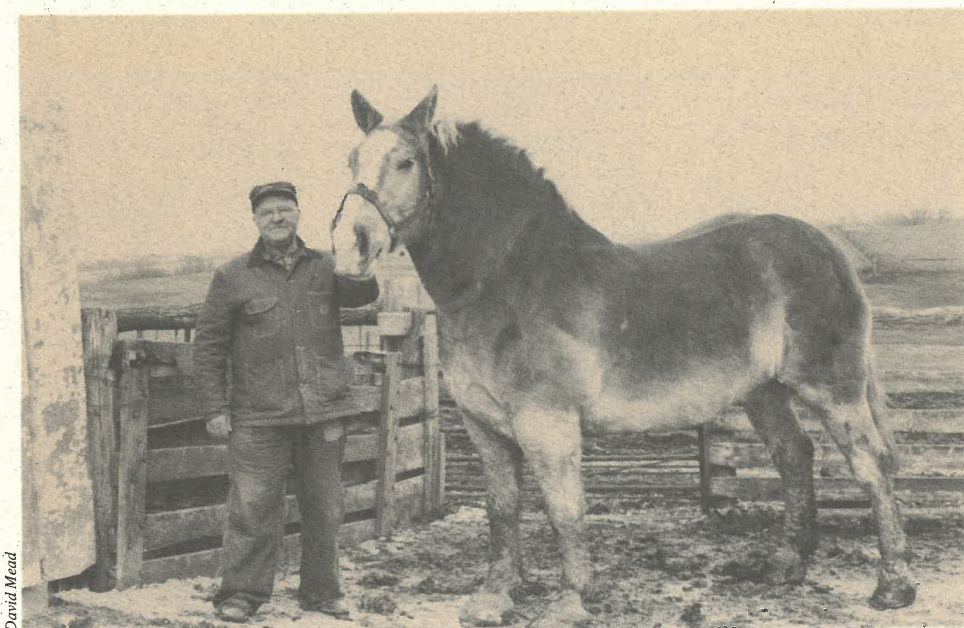
The next stop for our quartet was near Gower, Missouri, on the farm of Ralph Grier. Ralph still lives in

the house that he was born in more than seventy years ago. On the Grier farm the barn is still in use, although horses are not worked as in his father's time. However, they are still wanted and used. Ralph delighted in telling the history of the barn as much as we delighted in hearing it.

Here, the other members of the group got to see how horses were kept in a barn as they would have been during the 1920s. They also got to see the variety in the size of horses as Ralph has both riding horses and a draft horse. When asked how the barn was designed, Ralph gave a very simple answer, "Dad had an older barn and when he made this one he said that he was going to make it a whole lot handier."

The barn had features similar to the Culver barn that we had seen earlier. One was the fact that the main posts were cut on the farm. The stalls and the system for putting the hay in the loft were similar. The size (Culver's was about 125' x 45' and Grier's about 60' x 45') and the interior layouts were different because they met the individual needs of the people. The information gained will be most helpful as we deal with the expansion of the Pony Express Museum.

As the day was drawing to a close, the realization came that it had been very enjoyable. The stories that were told showed that the men who built the barns and used the horses were, and are, good custodians of the earth and its creatures. To quote Gary Culver, "Grandma always said, the barn had running water and I had to pump mine."



David Mead

Ralph Grier shows off a Belgian draft horse that stays in his historic barn near Gower.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 10 Oregon-California Trails Association meeting. The program, at 7:00 p.m. in the library at Troy, Kansas, will be a discussion of the genealogical resources of Doniphan County, Kansas and Northwest Missouri. It will be led by librarian Cindy Blanton and Grace Jeske.

March 13-15 Audubon Society Spring River Conference. Kearney, Nebraska.

March 14 or 28 "Search for Woodcocks," Audubon field trip. Dr. Leo Galloway, 232-8035.

March 19 "Prairie Chickens," Audubon Society program by Sharron Gough, 7:00 p.m., Missouri Western State College, LRC 102.

March 21 "Prairie Chicken" field trip. Audubon Society and St. Joseph Museum. (See related story, front page).

March 30 St. Joseph Archaeological Society meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Bank of St. Joseph, Woodbine and Faraon Streets. For information regarding the meeting call Mike Fisher 232-5738.

For more information call 232-8471

St. Joseph Museum
1100 Charles Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501-2874

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Pony Express Museum
914 Penn Street, P.O. Box 244
St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0244

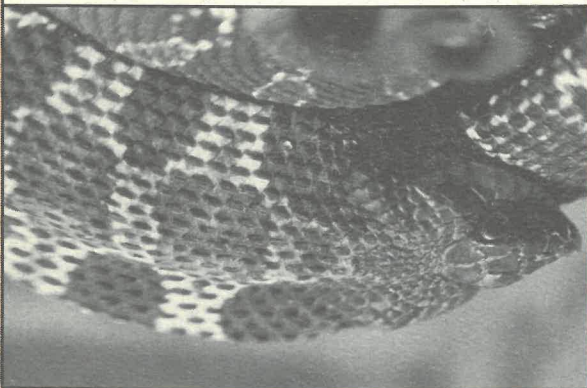
Printed on Recycled Paper

Museum Hours

St. Joseph Museum
Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays 1-5 p.m.

Pony Express Museum
Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays 1-5 p.m.

David Mead



The harmless eastern hog-nose snake is all bluff. When disturbed, it flattens out its body and hisses, but will not bite. Eventually, it will roll over and play dead. This hog-nose is part of the St. Joseph Museum's live snake collection.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. JOSEPH, MO.
PERMIT NO. 40

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 10 Oregon-California Trails Association meeting. The program, at 7:00 p.m. in the library at Troy, Kansas, will be a discussion of the geneological resources of Doniphan County, Kansas and Northwest Missouri. It will be led by librarian Cindy Blanton and Grace Jeske.

March 13-15 Audubon Society Spring River Conference. Kearney, Nebraska.

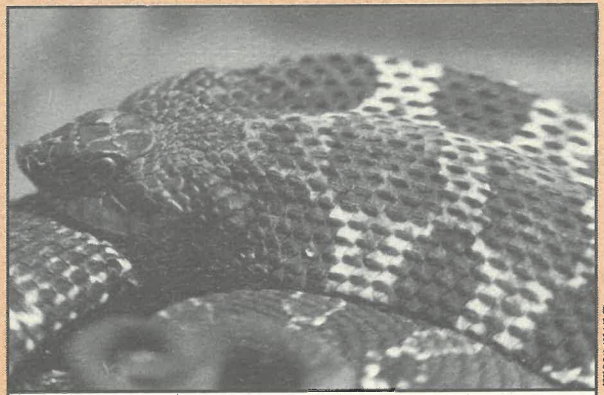
March 14 or 28 "Search for Woodcocks," Audubon field trip. Dr. Leo Galloway, 232-8035.

March 19 "Prairie Chickens," Audubon Society program by Sharron Gough, 7:00 p.m., Missouri Western State College, LRC 102.

March 21 "Prairie Chicken" field trip. Audubon Society and St. Joseph Museum. (See related story, front page).

March 30 St. Joseph Archaeological Society meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Bank of St. Joseph, Woodbine and Faraon Streets. For information regarding the meeting call Mike Fisher 232-5738.

For more information call 232-8471



David Mead

The harmless eastern hognose snake is all bluff. When disturbed, it flattens out its body and hisses, but will not bite. Eventually, it will roll over and play dead. This hognose is part of the St. Joseph Museum's live snake collection.

Museum Hours

St. Joseph Museum

**Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays 1-5 p.m.**

Pony Express Museum

**Monday through Saturday 9-5 p.m.
Sundays 1-5 p.m.**

Printed on Recycled Paper

St. Joseph Museum

1100 Charles Street

St. Joseph, Missouri 64501-2874

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. JOSEPH, MO
PERMIT NO. 40

Pony Express Museum

914 Penn Street, P.O. Box 244

St. Joseph, Missouri 64502-0244